

# underground papers

movement press is phenomenal. Equally notable is the outrage and fear which it creates in those whose interests it opposes. As the radical media grow, so do the attempts to repress it.

Among the most astounding cases of harassment is that of Dallas versus Dallas Notes. The paper was raided on Oct. 30 and Nov. 15. Vice squad cops came looking for "pornography" and tore the office apart. They confiscated four typewriters, cameras, darkroom and graphic equipment, business records, books, posters, a desk, a drafting table, copy and other material for the next issue, and everything else that could be ripped loose and carried off.

The Dallas police also arrested several staff members for possession of pornography. Publisher Stoney Burns was busted in both raids. Editor Rodd Delaney and his wife, circulation manager Donna Delaney, were arrested Oct. 30 and left the paper soon after, partly because the hassle was getting to be too much. But Stoney Burns is staying on and Dallas Notes is still alive.

Atlanta's Great Speckled Bird has also been labeled "obscene." The Bird's problems started when a group of anonymous local citizens, calling themselves the Dekalb Parents League for Decency, decided to print up the Best of the Bird. They distributed a smear sheet made up of Bird excerpts with all "smut" carefully underlined (as well as references to draft resistance, dope, and civil rights activity).

The local press began to carry reports that the Bird was being "investigated" for "obscenity." Vendors were questioned

After consulting a lawyer who said it was not illegal to write "Stop the War" on business reply cards, the Eabys refused to give the inspector a handwriting sample he had requested. Nothing more was heard of the matter until Nov. 4.

On Sept. 10 the federal government secured an indictment from a grand jury, charging Eaby with mailing "obscene" postcards to five magazines. Eaby was not arrested, however, until Nov. 4—which happened to be the day of a high school student strike he helped organize. If convicted, Eaby could get a 10-year sentence.

Three staffers of the UH News/Liberated Press at the University of Hartford, Conn., were busted Nov. 23 for publishing a cartoon depicting our President-elect as a large erect index finger.

They were arrested on a breach of the peace provision of a Connecticut libel statute which prohibits the publication of any "offensive, indecent or abusive matter concerning any person." Publisher Ben Holden says it is the first time this law has been used. The three were also charged on an obscene literature statute. They are now out on \$500 bond.

New York's Rat has been under fire of late. The New Jersey attorney general threatened an obscenity investigation and frightened off the Rat's Jersey printer. Editor Jeff Shero says too many Jersey

high school kids were reading the paper.

Now the Rat must find a new office because its rent has been doubled. The landlord says he was "visited by the FBI" three months ago. Also, the Rat's mail has a "cover" on it at the post office. A friendly postal employee informed Shero, asking him what he was up to that they were so interested in him. He said they started checking Rat's mail in early September. (The Rat got a lot of publicity because of its special Democratic convention issue in August.) A "cover" means the Post Office records the address of everyone who writes to you.

Other papers are faced with more subtle forms of repression. The Rag, in Austin, Tex., almost folded last summer because it couldn't get an office. Every place the Rag rented got condemned by the city. Eventually, no one would rent to the paper because they didn't want the kiss of death on their property. The Rag is also having trouble with printers. It has lost several, and its present printer has a habit of putting little black boxes over things he thinks are obscene.

And speaking of printers... Orpheus, in Phoenix, Ariz., has been turned down by 25 of them.

Tom Cahill, editor of the Inferno, a Chicano paper in San Antonio, Tex., was silenced as a result of his own activism. In January he was convicted of breaking a closed-circuit TV camera used to spy on workers in a restroom in a San Antonio factory. He agreed to pay the damage and his three-year sentence was suspended. But recently, the San Antonio News ran a

story linking Cahill to SDS activities at St. Mary's University. He is now in jail for "violation" of probation.

Other editors have been silenced by the selective service laws. Bruce Dancis of the First Issue in Ithaca, N.Y., and Jim Retherford of the Bloomington, Ind., Spectator have been convicted for resisting the draft. They are appealing six-year terms for selective service violations.

An example of the most devious scheme for silencing the underground press occurred recently in St. Louis. Staffers of the Daily Flash were waging war with police chief Walter Zinn. The chief couldn't get the city to prosecute the Flash for obscenity. (The city manager decided that a conviction would just get struck down in the courts and wasn't worth a hassle.)

So an undercover cop, groomed hippie style and claiming to be a Vietnam vet grooving the scene, befriended the paper's staff. The cop, Harold Jones, busted Pete Rothchild, an editor of Xanadu (which had meanwhile evolved from the Daily Flash) for suspected possession of grass.

John Mathieson, editor of Raisin Bread, Tony Seed, editor of the Canadian Free Press, and John Sinclair of The Sun and the Fifth Estate have also been busted on dope raps.

This has only been a small sampling of the papers facing the axe of repression. Other that have been hassled (some to the death) include Avatar, Georgia Straight, Helix, Logos, Seed, Spokane Natural, Florida Free Press, Vanguard, Harbinger, L.A. Free Press and many more.

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